

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IO-03 L-01

INR-05 EUR-08 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 PM-03 /054 W

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R 111335Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5661

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0518

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, CT

SUBJECT: CURRENT PLO RECOGNITION DRIVE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 76278

1. AS JOINT GOCAR-PLO MINUTE (BANGUI 452) BEING HELD
CONFIDENTIAL WITH NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT YET MADE OF GOCAR
AGREEMENT TO ALLOW PLO OPEN OFFICE AT BANGUI, EMBASSY BELIEVES
THAT TO RAISE MATTER WITH GOCAR AT PRESENT WOULD ALMOSH
CERTAINLY RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW WE OBTAINED INFORMATION
AND FEED RUMORS OF USG ESPIONAGE REPORTED BANGUI 0397.

2. SINCE GOCAR WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO MAKE MATTER PUBLIC
MUCH BEFORE PLO OFFICE IS ESTABLISHED IT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE
EFFECTIVE TO URGE DELAY AS ADVISED PARA 5 REFTTEL. FURTHERMORE,
MOSCOW TRAINED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
YAGONGO'S VIEWS AS EXPRESSED JOINT MINUTE APPEAR
SYMPATHETIC WITH MORE RADICAL PALESTINIAN POSITION SO THAT HE
IS LESS LIKELY TO BE IMPRESSED WITH THAT ARGUMENT.

3. THEREFORE, WHEN ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE THAT PLO
OFFICE WILL BE OPENED OR WHEN ITS REPRESENTATIVES ARRIVE, WHICH-
EVER OCCURS FIRST, WE RECOMMEND WE MAKE APPROACH TO FONMIN
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OR SECRETARY OF STATE FONAFF. DEPENDING ON WHO IS AVAILABLE,

MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. AS GOCAR KNOWS PLO HAS IN PAST HAD RECORD OF
TERRORISM, DIRECTED IN PART AGAINST US DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
AS IN KHARTOUM.

B. WE REALIZE ITS RECORD HAS IMPROVED RECENTLY.
HOWEVER, WE CANNOT BE SURE PLO WILL NOT AGAIN RESORT TO
TERRORISM IN CASE DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST SITUATION DO
NOT WORK OUT FAVORABLY FROM PLO POINT OF VIEW AND US
APPEARS TO BE THE OBSTACLE.

C. IN THIS CONNECTION WE NOTE RECENT STATEMENT BY FATAH
SPOKESMAN, ZUKAYR MUHSIN, TO EFFECT PLO HAS RESERVED RIGHT TO
ATTACK ISRAELI TARGETS "IN JAPAN, US OR ANYWHERE IN THE
WORLD." WHILE MUHSIN APPEARS TO BE TALKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT
ISRAELIS, PLO COULD AGAIN ENLARGE THEIR TARGETS TO INCLUDE
AMERICANS.

D. IN THIS UNCERTAIN SITUATION, WE HAVE TO DEPEND
ENTIRELY ON GOCAR FOR PROTECTION OF EMBASSY AND PEACE
CORPS PERSONNEL AND WE HOLD IT RESPONSIBLE FOR TALKING
ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO THIS END.

4. I REALIZE GOCAR WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO
PROTECT AMERICANS OR ANYONE ELSE AGAINST DETERMINED
TERRORIST ACTIONS, AND EMBASSY ITSELF WOULD BE PRACTICALLY
HELPLESS IN FACE OF BOMB THREATS, ETC. HOWEVER, I RECOMMEND
THAT WE SAY SOMETHING ALONG ABOVE LINES AS OUR OPENING
POSITION IN HOPES GOCAR WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE ON PLO
REPRESENTATIVES.

5. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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